



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (1 Thessalonians 5:28)

**Al and Martha Fransen • 1605 Madison Street
Bellevue, NE 68005-2352**

February 27, 1997

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 97-55

Sir:

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) age-based rating system is a monumental flop. Over the last months since this rating system has been in use my wife and I have wasted a great deal of time watching shows and movies that became offensive because of sexual content and foul language. And when I speak of sexual content, I'm also referring to the insidious insertion of homosexual themes and encounters in many programs.

Mr. Jack Valenti's arrogance in announcing and implementing a rating system that clearly flew in the face of virtually overwhelming opposition was unconscionable. Yet the system went into effect even though a poll released in December 1996 showed that 73 percent of the 1,000 respondents favored a content-based code over an age-based system.

Our preference is for a system along these lines: "G," "PG," "PG-7," "PG-8," "PG-13," "R," for any show/program/movie that features material that would garner a motion picture "R" rating and include an "H" for any program that contains homosexual themes/references/encounters. We object strenuously to the inclusion of homosexual themes/references/encounters in any television program regardless of time-slot. This behavior is aberrant, repugnant, and repulsive and has no place at all in any family entertainment forum. It's bad enough that we have to contend with the excessive sex, violence, and vulgarity without also being confronted so frequently with references to such an offensive life-style.

Respectfully,
Al & Martha Fransen
Al and Martha Fransen

cc:

Honorable John McCain, Senator from Arizona
Honorable Chuck Hagel, Senator from Nebraska
Honorable J. Robert Kerrey, Senator from Nebraska
Honorable Jon Christensen, Congressman from Nebraska



CS 97-85

Morality in Media of Massachusetts, Inc.

85 Brown Avenue • Roslindale, Massachusetts 02131-3719 • Tel. (617) 469-3141
February 11, 1997

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RECEIVED

MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Chairman Reed Hundt
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

On behalf of MORALITY IN MEDIA OF MASSACHUSETTS, 5000 plus membership, we strongly state dissatisfaction and opposition to the TV ratings system recently proposed by the Motion Picture Association of America. Parents and discerning adults require a rating systems based on content with particular reference to the level of sex, vulgarity and violence in each program to determine appropriately the blocking mechanism of the V-Chip. It is incredibly naive for MPAA to assume the public would accept a system based on age limits developed by the same people who produce and distribute the shows.

In our opinion, the V-Chip and any rating system will have loopholes and defects. How more effective and responsible if writers and producers focused on promoting media content that encouraged family values and wholesome, healthy behaviors! In this way only, concern for America's youth and moral crisis may be described as truly genuine. All children should be protected; those with supervising parents and those without such parents.

Mr. Hundt, we urge the FCC to protect all these children by enforcing the broadcast indecency law against TV stations, thereby decreasing offensive programming. We are facing a "New Year" filled with challenge and hope. Our ultimate challenge is to restore a morally healthy, safe society; our hope is that FCC will be a responsible participant in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rita G. Covelle, Chairperson
MMM, Eastern Middlesex Chapter
Box 189 - 99 F Main Street
Stoneham, MA 02180

RGC/moc

CS 97-55

**The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.**

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February 1997

MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,



Fenton Whitlow

member of Western District Extension Homemakers with
North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association
affiliated with the N.A.F.C.E.
(National Association for Family and community Education)

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CS 97-05

**The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.**

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February 1997

MAR 4 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

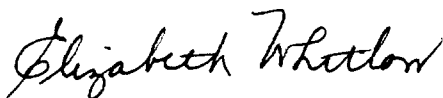
Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Whitlow, President
Western District Extension Homemakers with
North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association
affiliated with the N.A.F.C.E.
(National Association for Family and community Education)

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Texas Association For
Family & Community Education

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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February 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Reed Hundt

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, The Texas Association for Family and Community Education are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Lynia Strokel

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CS 97-55

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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February 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Reed Hundt

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, The Texas Association for Family and Community Education are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

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CS 97-55

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February 12, 1997

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am most upset with the new TV rating system. It is totally inadequate for the purpose of giving meaningful assistance to parents seeking to shield their children from sex, violence, and profanity on TV programs. Only a parent can decide what is "age appropriate" for their individual child based on his maturity, training, world view, etc.

Only a rating system based on content will help. However, any rating system, but especially the newly devised one, will only serve as an excuse for the industry to produce more and more filth after having placed the burden on society to protect itself from this filth and violence.

Why can't the sex and excessive violence be limited to the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.?

Sincerely,

Gladys Calloway
Gladys Calloway

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CS 97-55

(LETTERHEAD)

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February 1997

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reid Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Aileen B. Meador (Lemon Springs Extension Homemakers)
P. O. Box 118
Lemon Springs
N.C.

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CS 97-55

**The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.**

February 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt :

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Jean Crenshaw

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CS 97-55

**The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.**

February 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Betty G. Tarleton

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CS 97-55

(LETTERHEAD)

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

February 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Edith M. Smith

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CS97-55

4915 W. Seward Ave
Peoria, Ill. 61604

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Feb. 8, 1997

Hon. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: TV Rating System

Hon. Hundt:

I would like to encourage
a change in FCC policy that
would enforce the broadcast
indecentcy law against TV stations.

I appreciate and thank you
for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Gertrude Wiebler

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed.
Please Reject the flawed
ratings proposal from the
Motion picture association of
America and substitute instead,
a system that rates programming
by content. As parents demand.

Harry's Checkla Van Leshont
R.I. Box 13
Matt. N. 8. 58646

Some program are so bad
for our children. showing condoms
& talk about sex all the time.

DUPLICATE COPY ORIGINAL

CS 97-55-

February 3, 1997

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Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt

I am writing to request that a public hearing be held regarding the television rating system.

Yours truly,

*Linda J. Camp -
Rt #1 Box 5 Wittman Lane
Washington, W. Va 26181*

Member of: Ohio Valley FCE

FCE National Headquarters Office

P.O. Box 835

Burlington, Ky. 41005 - 0835

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Missouri Association For
Family & Community Education

CS 97-55

February 18, 1997

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Reed Hundt

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, Missouri State Association, are grass roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based TV ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Ruth Mellor, President
Missouri Association for Family & Community Education
16 Lake Superior Dr.
St. Peters, MO 63376
314-441-7664



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CS 97-58

fce
National Association For
Family & Community Education

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MAR 4 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

February, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554
Chairman Hundt
Commissioner

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, CAECE State Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Overbaugh
VP Policy



NAFCE Headquarters • P.O. Box 835 • 5963 Jefferson St. • Burlington, KY 41005-0835 • Tel: 606-586-8331 • Fax: 606-586-8348

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February 3, 1997

CS 97-55

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAR 4 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt

I am writing to request that a public hearing be held regarding the television rating system.

Yours truly,

*Bethie Lucas, President
West Virginia FCE
an affiliate of National Association
for Family & Community Education*

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CE 97-55

MAR 4 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

MRS. JAMES V. MORRIS
48 JEFFERSON ST.
OAK RIDGE, N. J. 07438

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Dear Chairman Hundt:

The government has a valid interest in protecting all Americans - both children and adults - from indecent programming. In the words of the Supreme Court, there is "a right of the Nation . . . to maintain a decent society."

Please change the commission's policy and enforce the broadcast indecency law against TV stations. Past failure in this area is a primary reason why all too much TV programming is offensive.

Also, with the dawn of the V-Chip the FCC must reject the flawed ratings proposal from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and substitute instead a system that rates programming by content.

We are "one Nation under God" because our founding fathers said so and because, 200 years later, we the American people, **choose** to be.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Morris (Name)

____ (Address)

c: Morality in Media, 475 Riverside Dr, NYC 10115

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0597-5
Rees Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

1997

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am writing to you to ask you
and urge you to reject the rating
system. The ratings are made ^{by} the
distributors and they are not the ones
to say what should be seen and heard.

I thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Francis M. Lamberson

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Mrs. Charles F. Vatterott
10333 Whitebridge Lane
Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Feb. 4, '97

Dear Mr. Harman,

Please, I urge you to enforce
the Federal broadcast indecency
law against TV stations.

In the words of the Supreme
Court there is "a right of the Nation
— to maintain a decent society

The Motion Picture Association
has a flawed rating — ignoring
parents demand to rate program-
ing by content. You can substitute
such rating by recognizing their
insistence.

Sincerely,

Mary Patricia Vatterott

BOOKLET FILE COPY

C-3

ROODHUNDT -

FCC CHA. --

THE NEW TV
RATING SYSTEM

IS VIGOROUSLY REJECTED

ANTI-FAMILY!

MAR 4 1997

PLEASE

PLEASE

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

PLEASE --

REJECT

THAT SYSTEM,

IT IS ABSOLUTE

GARBAGE!

THANKS,

V. F. WELLS

3547 COLGATE

IRVING, TX 75062

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Mrs. Mary Ann Vallieres
7081 Huron St. Apt. 3
Port Sanilac, MI 48469-9778

2-8-97

Attention:

Chairman Reed Hundt

In the past FCC has not enforced the broadcast indecency law against TV stations.

I'm sure you are aware that the Supreme Court has stated that the Federal Government is to maintain a decent society.

As a very concerned citizen, I, along with other concerned citizens, wish for the FCC to change its policy & enforce the broadcast indecency law against TV stations.

With the V-Chip activated, FCC must reject the flawed ratings proposal from the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Let FCC rate programs by content, as parents demand. Thank you.

Mary Ann Vallieres

CS 97-55

February 12, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

John R. Quinn
Lucille C. Quinn
P.O. Box 891
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

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MAR 4 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing to request that the flawed ratings system proposed by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) be replaced by a system that rates programming by content, as most American parents demand. We are concerned because the broadness of the categories does not give an accurate indication of a program's content, thereby making selection for either family viewing, viewing for one's children, or simply viewing for oneself very difficult. We feel a rating system similar to the example below would be more effective.

Program Subject Matter	Occurrence	Level	Rating
Violence	sporadic	low	V-1
Violence	frequent	high	V-2
Gory Scenes	sporadic	low	G-1
Gory Scenes	frequent	high	G-2
Nudity	brief	low	N-1
Nudity	frequent	high	N-2
Profanity	mild	low	P-1
Profanity	frequent	high	P-2
Adult Situations	(not suitable for under age 14)		A-1
Adult Situations	(not suitable for under age 18)		A-2

It amazes us that some producers of movies, music, books and art will nearly "fight to the death" to ensure that what they have created is marketed regardless of how trashy, violent, vulgar, etc. its subject matter may be. And the Courts often support their position in the name of freedom of speech. We'd like to know, "Who is protecting the rights of the American public which justifiably demands that a system be put in place so that viewers can knowledgeably elect to view or *not* to view a program, rather than be offended or embarrassed by its content? Why are the feelings of so many concerned citizens ignored by those who are opposed to a more comprehensive rating system? Has our society become so morally bankrupt that it no longer has the will to protect the rights of those who simply would like to be forewarned about the content of the programming that enters their homes?"

No one is suggesting that certain programs not be aired, but simply rated to give viewers the kind of quality control *which should rightly be theirs*. We, therefore, urge you to make the necessary changes in the proposed MPAA rating system so that Americans will have the freedom to choose based on an informed decision-making process.

Sincerely yours,



John R. and Lucille C. Quinn

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CS 97-55

The North Carolina
Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.

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February 1997

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hunt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Reed Hunt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Carol Eudy
Plumtree Extension Homemakers
Plumtree, NC 28664

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February 14, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
FCC
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 4 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I have recently read about the new TV ratings system that has been proposed that is very similar to the movie rating system (TV-Y, -7, -G, -PG, -14, -M). It is my understanding that this rating will be determined by the producers and distributors of the programs.

I am very much opposed to this new rating system! This type of system does nothing for me or my wife when we try to determine what the *actual* content of a program is prior to viewing with our 4 children. We need a system that grades the level of sexual content (including innuendos), violence (even if cartoon characters), and foul language. This grade needs to be *objective* with a set criteria that is easy to understand, and will not change over time.

I have personally seen the content of movies change over the years. Most of what is rated PG-13 today was rated R just 10-15 years ago, and most of the PG movies now have foul language that would not have been acceptable years ago (especially when it is used by children in the movie). I know that this TV rating system will lead to the same deterioration of objectivity if implemented the way it has been proposed.

Since the V-chip will be wired for the new system, it is important that we choose a rating system that will not change over time, even though the programs' content might change. I would be happy to help the FCC with this new rating system, if you would like the input of an average citizen with 4 kids that like to watch TV.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter!

Sincerely,

Mark Swisher

Mark Swisher
213 Roberts St.
Jena, LA 71342

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